AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

Claims 1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A twin-screw extruder, comprising at least two closely intermeshing screws rotating in a same direction for advancing a plastic melt in a transport direction, each of the screws supporting at least one comb element defining an involute surface and comprising ~~on its involute surface~~ a plurality of surface structure elements which are ~~set back~~ extend inwardly from the involute surface in the absence of intermeshing of the individual surface structures of the comb elements.

12. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the comb element, as viewed in the transport direction, is arranged downstream of a feed device for introduction of fiber material.

13. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 12, wherein the fiber material includes natural fibers.

14. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 13, wherein the natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of flax fibers, hemp fibers, kenaf fibers, sisal fibers, coco fibers, cotton fibers and jute fibers.

15. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 12, wherein the fiber material includes inorganic fibers.

16. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 15, wherein the inorganic fibers are selected from the group consisting of glass fibers and carbon fibers.

17. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 12, wherein the fiber material includes aramide fibers.

18. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 12, wherein the fiber material has fibers with a mean fiber length of at least 1 mm after a compounding process.

19. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein each of the screws includes a plurality of said comb element arranged behind one another.

20. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 19, wherein the comb elements are arranged on the screw in axial spaced-apart relationship.

21. (Original) The twin-screw extruder of claim 12, wherein each of the screws supports a screw element disposed in the transport direction downstream of the feed device for fiber material to realize a coarse distribution of the fiber material, said comb element constructed for implementing a homogenous distribution of the fiber material in the plastic melt.

22. (Canceled)

23.-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements extend inwardly from the involute surface in perpendicular relationship to a tangential direction at a maximum of 5 mm.

32. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements have a surface area of ≤ 2 mm^2 at their tip adjacent to the involute surface.

33. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements have a surface area of $\leq$ 1.8 mm^2 at their tip adjacent to the involute surface.

34. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements are constructed to resemble the shape of a member selected from the group consisting of pyramid, truncated pyramid, truncated cone, cylinder, block shape, and combinations thereof.

35. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements have each a bottom and a pointed end and are defined by a cross section which decreases from the bottom face to the pointed end.

36. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements have a substantial conical shape.

37. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements are arranged at a surface density such as to realize at least 10^8 looping possibilities per area unit of 100 mm^2 for a flexible fiber.

38. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the involute surfaces of opposing comb elements are so constructed as to be spaced from one another at a distance of a maximum of 5 mm, when the comb elements are mounted on parallel screw shafts of the screws.

39. (New) The twin-screw extruder of claim 11, wherein the surface structure elements are configured such as to maintain a minimum distance in relation to the surface structure elements of an opposing comb element to avoid any cutting action between the comb elements.